

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended and claims 10-12 are newly-added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action of August 10, 2000, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 as unpatentable over **Tatsuya**.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in Applicants' response of December 6, 2000, **Tatsuya** discloses a commodity take-out device in which the commodities are prepared in a commodity containing part 2 in a take-out-impossible state locked by a lock mechanism with a door 6 in a blocked state.

Immediately after information of a bar code 11 indicating commodity contents which are allocated at every door 6 in place of the commodity itself is read by the bar code scanner 15, a reading recognition light emitting part 19 at a bar code scanner 15 side emits light, a reading recognition light receiving part 20 receives light so as to release the lock of the lock mechanism in the door 6 of a corresponding commodity take-out port 5 and the commodity can be taken-out so that the read bar code information correctly corresponds to the take-out commodity.

Tatsuya is directed to opening a door containing a commodity, and there is no element in **Tatsuya** which corresponds to a tag, deactivator or the detector of the present invention.

In particular, the Examiner has urged that element 12 in **Tatsuya** constitutes a tag as claimed in the present invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Element 12 in Fig. 1(a) appears to merely represent a

printed label identifying the commodity in the locked compartment.

The Examiner has also urged that reading recognition light receiving part 20 constitutes the deactivator claimed in the present invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Reading recognition light receiving part 20 functions to open the locked compartment and does not deactivate any tag, as required in the claims of the instant application.

The Examiner has urged that an object sensor serves as the detector claimed in the present invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. No object sensor in the drawings has been identified by the Examiner and, furthermore, no element may serve as the claimed detector because it does not detect effectivity of any tag, as required in the claims of the present invention.

Tatsuya fails to disclose performing security management at an exit of a store, as in the present invention.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended to recite this distinction.

Tatsuya also fails to disclose a tag made of magnetic material and having a thin plate-like shape, as in the present invention.

Accordingly, claims 10-12 have been added to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, claims 1-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/282,450

Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney, at the telephone number indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event this response is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI
McLELAND & NAUGHTON, LLP



William L. Brooks
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,129

Atty. Docket No. 990295
Suite 1000 - 1725 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
Tel (202) 659-2930
FAX (202) 887-0357

WLB:mlg

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1-2 and 9 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A commodity information management system for managing a commodity as well as security thereof based on a barcode and a tag attached to said commodity, said system comprising:

a reader for reading the barcode;

a deactivator provided downstream from said reader for deactivating the tag after the barcode is read by the reader;

a detector provided downstream from said deactivator for detecting effectivity of the tag;

and

a notifying unit for notifying an operator of a detection result by said detector,

wherein said tag is for performing security management at an exit of a store.

2. (Twice Amended) A commodity information management system for managing commodity as well as security thereof based on a barcode and an activated tag attached to said commodity, said system comprising:

a reader for reading the barcode;

a deactivator provided downstream from said reader for deactivating the tag after the

barcode is read by the reader;

a detector provided downstream from said deactivator for detecting magnetism of the tag;

and

a notifying unit for notifying an operator of a detection result by said detector,

wherein said tag is for performing security management at an exit of a store.

9. (Twice Amended) A commodity information management system having a barcode reader for reading a barcode, comprising:

an output unit for outputting, when the barcode is read by the barcode reader, a deactivating section-drive signal for driving a deactivating section which deactivates a security tag attached to commodity;

a magnetic detector for detecting the magnetic field of the security tag; and

a notifying unit for sending a notice to the operator when magnetism of the security tag is detected by said magnetic detector after said deactivating section is driven,

wherein said tag is for performing security management at an exit of a store.